

**MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICES & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
ROOM W015, WEST OFFICE BUILDING, STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX
January 31, 2008**

Members Present: Sen. Michael G. Waddoups, Co-Chair
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings, Co-Chair
Sen. Scott D. McCoy
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard
Rep. Keith Grover
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig

Members Absent: Sen. Curtis S. Bramble

Staff Present: Gary Ricks, Fiscal Analyst
Gary Syphus, Fiscal Analyst
Carrie Griffith, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Sen. Waddoups called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m.

Rep. Cosgrove, accompanied by Dave Walsh, Budget Analyst CCJJ, addressed the Subcommittee and asked for support with a \$1,857,900 request he is making for victims of violent crime.

Gary Ricks, Fiscal Analyst, provided a spread sheet to show the budget adjustment and explained the changes to the Subcommittee.

Sen. Waddoups relinquished the chair to Rep. Hutchings.

Department of Corrections

Tom Patterson, Executive Director, addressed the Subcommittee. As a continuation of the Wednesday, January 30, 2008 meeting, he spoke about recruitment and retention issues of correctional officers. Handouts were distributed showing salary comparisons of other correctional officers throughout the state and a proposed career ladder pay scale step increase. Mr. Patterson explained the handouts and responded to questions relating to these issues.

Referring to a handout distributed at the January 30, 2008 meeting, Mr. Patterson addressed other funding needs for the Department. They include ongoing requests as follows: (1) Gunnison 192 Bed Full-Year Funding, \$7,446,200; (2) Correctional Officer Recruitment and Retention, \$3,000,000; (3) Inmate Transportation Staff, \$2,353,400; (4) 300-bed Parole Violator Center, \$7,643,100; (5) Sex Offender Treatment, \$1,271,900; (6) Medical Costs Shortfall, \$1,000,000; (7) Sex Offender Registry, \$330,000; (8) Jail Contracting Growth, \$3,568,200; (9) Jail Reimbursement Growth, \$3,231,100; (10) Jail Contract Core Rate Increase, \$5,077,000; and (11)

Jail Reimbursement Core Rate Increase, \$2,873,400. A one-time request for Transportation Staff Overtime, \$947,400 was discussed. A request from the Restricted Fund for Data Processing Internal Service Fund of \$367,700 was also noted.

Cliff Butter, Research Consultant, answered questions regarding recidivism rates of sex offenders. He agreed to bring data showing those numbers to help the Subcommittee be better informed when making appropriation decisions.

Mr. Patterson responded to questions relating to the above requests. He also stated the need to build two additional PODS at the Gunnison West 1 & 2 Facility, recommending both buildings be constructed simultaneously. He noted there would be a significant savings in building both together, although the second POD won't be used until a year after the first. He also informed the Subcommittee of a Prison Cook Chill Kitchen the Department would like to implement, which he said would eventually pay for itself. The price tag for the Kitchen would be about \$20,000,000.

Mr. Patterson presented a summary of the Department's Building Blocks, emphasizing the need of funding for Correctional Officers, Gunnison, Inmate Transportation Staff, Parole Violator Staff, Sex Offender Treatment and Medical Shortfall Costs.

Stewart Ralphs and Anne Milne, Legal Protection of Families and Children

Stewart Ralphs, Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake, accompanied by Anne Milne, Utah Legal Services, distributed handouts and addressed the Subcommittee regarding the need of an ongoing appropriation of \$500,000 to provide legal aid for low-income Utah families facing family law and domestic violence problems.

Courts

Dan Becker, State Court Administrator, accompanied by Rick Schwermer, Assistant Court Administrator, stated they have thoroughly sifted through their budget before coming to the Subcommittee asking for funding requests. A handout was distributed detailing the most pressing Building Block Requests for FY 2009.

Mr. Becker was pleased to report the Department was able to find a solution for a problem with the Court Complex Fund, which they projected would go in the red by 2009. They will not be asking for monies from the Legislature for that Fund this year.

Mr. Becker detailed the Department's Building Block requests for FY 2009. They include: (1) Building Leases and Contracts, \$623,900. He clarified the Analysts request is \$500,000 and the Courts request is \$623,900, stating the higher number is for actual costs to honor existing contractual obligations; (2) Deputy Court Clerk Compensation, \$817,100; (3) 4th District Court Commissioner, \$278,200; (4) Law clerks, \$419,500; (5) Data Processing Replacement, \$240,000;

(6) Juror/Witness/Interpreter Fund, which is a two-part request: \$150,000 Ongoing and \$560,000 Supplemental One-Time to cover the deficit from FY 06, 07, and projected for 08;
(7) A three-part request: (a) Juvenile Non-Judicial Fund Limit Increase, \$915,300, Restricted Funds; (b) Justice Courts Technology and Security Fund Limit Increase; and (c) Case Management Pilot Program, \$148,400 One-time.

Ray Wahl, Juvenile Court Administrator, distributed a handout describing Utah Juvenile Court system improvements in the last decade. He reported to the Subcommittee some successes seen within the Juvenile Courts as a result of past funding.

Mr. Becker invited Subcommittee members to visit the Courts website to see how the courts are doing in their individual communities. They were also encouraged to attend a court session to observe how the system works.

Mr. Becker responded to questions raised by Subcommittee members regarding performance measures and recidivism, as well as the funding requests listed above.

Gary Ricks, Fiscal Analyst, asked that the Departments and Agencies have Intent Language turned in to the Analysts for review before the Monday, February 4, 2008 meeting.

Staff was asked by the Chairs to put together an updated list of the current Building Block requests.

Police Report Study: CCJJ

Chris Mitchell, Director Research and Data, accompanied by Dave Walsh, Director, distributed a handout titled "Contacts between Police and the Public in Utah." It detailed a telephone survey of residents in Utah asking questions about contacts they had with the police during the past year. Ms. Mitchell explained the findings of the survey to the Subcommittee. Rep. Seelig, the overseer of this project, stated CCJJ will be in communication with POST and may be used as a training tool for others.

Quennete Huber, accompanied by Mindy Barrett, Corrections Spouse Auxiliary, plead with the committee for financial support in helping fix the staffing and retention problems for correctional officers.

MOTION: Rep. Grover moved to adjourn.

Rep. Hutchings adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.